constituted to consider the cases of lecturers of Kendriya Hindi Sangthan, Agra, for placement in the senior scale, met twice since 31st March, 95, viz., 29.12.95 and 22.8.96. In the meeting on 29.12.95 the Committee decided to seek certain clarifications from the University Grants Commission regarding the criteria prescribed for placement in the senior scale. The delay in processing the cases has been due to the time taken by UGC in providing the required clarifications. In the last meeting held on 22.8.96, the Committee has made its recommendations for placement of eligible lecturers in senior scale.

Meetings with SC/ST Associations

3189. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SC/ST Associations can request for informal monthly meetings with the Liaison Officers of Zonal Railways and the Divisional Personnel Officers and some instructions were reiterated in the year 1994;

(b) whether these instructions are not issued in pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs; and

(c) whether there was any compulsion for the Railway Administration to curtail the facilities of monthly meeting to half yearly, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Earlier instructions were that Liaison Officers meetings both at Divisional and Zonal level can be held on request from Associations. No specific periodicity of the meeting was laid down.

(b) The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SCs/STs to Eastern Railway in their 47th report vide para—'7' recommended the following:

"Meetings/Conferences of the Liaison Officers should be held at regular intervals to find solutions to the problems faced by them on the basis of the experience gained by each."

The above recommendation was accepted by the Ministry of Railways and the Railways/Production units were advised accordingly in 1989.

(c) Specific periodicity of the meetings was laid down in 1994 (twice in a year) to avoid ambiguous situation. Instructions were issued in February, 1995 for holding monthly meetings, if desired so by the Associations. This was modified in July'96 and instructions as laid down in 1994 were restored in view of too many meetings being conducted at Zonal and Divisional level which leaves very little time to concentrate on real work.

Railway's budgetary provisions

3190. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outlays proposed for 1996-97 under New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Electrification, Research & Development and Rolling Stock;

(b) how these compare with 1995-96, both at BE & RE levels;

(c) whether Railways have made less provision under these crucial heads;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the low provision would not affect Railways developmental projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):

(a) and (b) Statement showing the details of outlays proposed during 1995-96 & 1996-97 is as under